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Car dealer to repay customers for fees

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PLYMOUTH - Indiana officials announced Monday that The Auto Park has agreed to send \$34 refunds to customers overcharged for paperwork.

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Secretary of State Connie Lawson and Attorney General Greg Zoeller reported that their settlement with the Plymouth car dealership could lead to more than \$130,000 in reimbursements.

The Auto Park "was charging customers an exorbitant document-preparation fee" on sales and deliveries of vehicles, according to the statement.

"Thanks to a vigilant consumer who read the fine print, about 3,800 customers will get some of their money back," Lawson said.

Investigators determined the "doc fees" on many sales were not reasonably related to document preparation. Indiana law requires such fees to be disclosed, negotiated, reflective of actual expenses and noted on the purchase agreement.

"Document preparation fees are not required by the state," Zoeller said, "so consumers should ask what the charge entails and try to negotiate the price."

Customers who were charged a document-preparation fee of \$228 between Nov. 1, 2010, and Nov. 1, 2012, will receive a \$34 refund. The dealership will mail the reimbursements directly to eligible customers.

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